

## Message Text

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TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: COMBINED MEDIA REPORT, MARCH 20, EVENING

NO. 38

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NEWSPAPERS

1. LATIMES, RESTON, PAGE 9, HEADLINED, "INDOCHINA EVENTS HURT HIS MIDEAST EFFORTS--KISSINGER." RESTON WRITES HAK BELIEVES WIDE SPREAD COMMUNIST GAINS IN SVN AND THREATENED COLLAPSE OF CAMBODIA WEAKEN HIS AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE NEW PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

HAK'S FEAR IS THAT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA ARE RAISING SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT VALUE OF AMERICAN POLITICAL COMMITMENTS TO ALLIES AND OTHER NATIONS THROUGHOUT WORLD. HIS CONCERN... WAS EXPRESSED TO REPORTERS ABOARD HAK PLANE...

LATEST CRISIS IN SEA COULD NOT HAVE COME AT WORSE TIME FOR HAK. HE IS INVOLVED IN ME IN DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS...AT PRECISELY MOMENT ANOUTHER PART OF HIS DIPLOMACY IS COMING  
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UNRAVELED, SPECIFICALLY VN CEASE-FIRE...

SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID HE COULD NOT HAVE NEGOTIATED PEACE AGREEMENT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE HAD HE FORESEEN WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN JUST TWO YEARS LATER. HE COMPLAINED THAT PART OF PROBLEM WAS U.S. FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO ITS COMMITMENT OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE SUPPORT OVER A DECENT INTERVAL OF TIME.

OFFICIAL PREDICTED FALL OF CAMBODIA TO COMMUNIST INSURGENTS SHORTLY.... SAIGON REGIME MAY BE LEFT WITH CONTROL OF SOUTHERN HALF OF SVN AND SOME COASTAL ENCLAVES.

NEWS OF SERIOUS MILITARY SETBACKS IN SVN REACHED HERE AT BEGINNING OF ANOTHER LONG DAY OF HAK DIPLOMACY THAT REACHED FROM JERUSALEM TO SAUDI ARABIAN CAPITAL AND BACK TO JERUSALEM.

HAK BEGAN DAY IN MEETING WITH ISRAELI LEADERSHIP. HE THEN FLEW TO SAUDI ARABIA...

WHILE IN SAUDI ARABIA, HAK AWAITED WORD FROM AN URGENT ISRAELI CABINET MEETING CALLED TO CONSIDER NEW MOVES AND RESPONSES...

BEFORE LEAVING RIYADH, HAK WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO KNOCK DOWN SPECULATION ABOUT A POSSIBLE U. S. MILITARY INTERVENTION TO SEIZE PERSIAN GULF OIL FIELDS.....

YAMANI WELCOMED HAK'S REMARKS AND SAID HE WAS GLAD THEY WERE MADE PUBLICLY....

ACCORDING TO SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL WITH HAK PARTY, SAUDIS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME UNHAPPINESS OVER RECENT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS INTO MACHINERY OF ARAB ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AGAINST ISRAEL AND STATE OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION.

BUT U. S. OFFICIALS SAID HAK TALKS IN RIYADH WENT EXTREMELY WELL, BUT HAK'S MIND SEEMED PREOCCUPIED WITH ADVERSE TURN OF EVENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD.

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IN THE PLANE, HIS MOOD APPEARED SUBDUED, ALMOST PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT GROWING INABILITY OF U. S. TO CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN POLICY EFFECTIVELY. JUDGMENTS SEEMED WEIGHED AGAINST HIS MOUNTING NEGOTIATING DIFFICULTIES IN ME AND BAD NEWS FLOWING IN FROM SEA AND FROM PORTUGAL WHERE, U. S. OFFICIALS SAID, COUNTRY IS SLIDING INTO COMMUNIST CAMP.

2. JUST RECEIVED COPY MARCH 17 BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN

(HEARST), IN WHICH WALLACH HAS A FEATURE HEADLINED, "U.S. WILL NOT RECOGNIZE PLO UNTIL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION ADMITS EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL." MOST OF ARTICLE, HOWEVER, IS SOURCED FROM SYRIAN OFFICIALS. WALLACH SAYS SYRIAN MFA OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THAT "SYRIA IS WILLING TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENDING PLO TERRORISTS ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL AND FOR PLO ACCEPTANCE OF UN RESOLUTIONS AFFIRMING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST." WALLACH SAYS THESE OFFICIALS "EXPLAINED THAT PLO HAD AGREED TO MAKE THESE CONCESSIONS IN FRAMEWORK OF A JOINT POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMAND IN SYRIA IN ORDER TO GAIN POLITICAL RECOGNITION BY U.S." AFTER DISCUSSING U. S. POSITION ON RECOGNITION OF PLO, WALLACH STATES SYRIAN OFFICIALS EXPLAINED PLO HAS "SUFFERED NUMEROUS SETBACKS IN ARAB WORLD SINCE" ARAFAT'S UNGA APPEARANCE AND "SYRIA MAY VERY WELL BE THEIR LAST CHANCE."

WIRES

UPI (NO BYLINE), JERUSALEM:  
HAK POSTPONED HIS SHUTTLE TO EGYPT HOUR AFTER HOUR TODAY WHILE ISRAELI CABINET MET. HE SAID SESSION FINALLY PRODUCED NEW IDEAS ON PEACE IN ME THAT HE WILL RELAY TO SADAT.

ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM GAVE HAK IDEAS DURING A 75-MINUTE MEETING FOLLOWING MARATHON SESSIONS OF CABINET. HAK HEADED IMMEDIATELY TO ASWAN...

ASKED ...WHETHER ISRAELIS HAD COME UP WITH NEW PROPOSALS, HAK REPLIED: "I THINK THERE ARE SOME NEW IDEAS, YES."

AP (NO BYLINE), JERUSALEM: HAK FIGHTING TO SAVE HIS PEACE MISSION, WON WHAT HE CALLED "NEW IDEAS" FROM ISRAEL  
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TODAY AND CARRIED THEM TO EGYPT.

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID HAK ALSO MAY MEET WITH GROMYKO IN VIENNA ON SATURDAY, INDICATING SOME PROGRESS....

"I THINK THERE ARE SOME NEW IDEAS," HAK TOLD NEWSMEN....

HAK STILL FACED WHAT OFFICIALS CALLED "A WIDE GAP" BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS....

MENTION OF NEW IDEAS RAISED HOPES FOR SETTLEMENT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE HAK MOVED HIS MISSION INTO HIGH GEAR AT BEGINNING OF WEEK. "NEW IDEAS" COULD MEAN ISRAEL HAD SOFTENED SOME POINTS IN ITS POSITION, OBSERVERS SAID.

... AFTER HE RETURNED TO JERUSALEM, HAK SAID, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE "A BETTER ASSESSMENT".

...PERES SAID ISRAEL GAVE HAK ITS "COMPLETE PROPOSAL...WE HAVE CONCLUDED OUR PROPOSAL."

UPI ADD (ALSO FROM JERUSALEM) SAYS HAK LEF; FOR ASWAN SIX HOURS BEHIND SCHEDULE. UPI ALSO USES HAK'S COMMENTS ON "NEW IDEAS," HIS REFUSAL TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER GAP HAD BEEN NARROWED, AND PERES' COMMENT ON CONCLUSION OF ISRAELI PROPOSALS. UPI ALSO REPORTS DAY'S SEQUENCE OF EVENTS AND QUOTES FROM ISRAELI CABINET'S COMMUNIQUE.

LATE WIRES

AP, SCHWEID, ASWAN: HAK BROUGHT "ADDITIONAL ISRAELI SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS" ON SINAI SETTLEMENT TO SADAT THURSDAY NIGHT...

...U.S. OFFICIALS TOLD NEWSMEN THAT ISRAELI CABINET HAD MADE FIRST FORMAL CHANGE IN ITS POSITION SINCE HAK CAME TO ME TWO WEEKS AGO.

AN INDICATION THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN SHUTTLE NEGOTIATIONS WAS INFORMATION FROM U. S. OFFICIALS THAT HAK MAY MEET WITH SOVIET FM GROMYKO IN VIENNA ON SATURDAY.  
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...ALL AMERICAN OFFICIALS WOULD ONLY DESCRIBE WHAT ISRAELI CABINET HAS ADDED AS "SOME MODIFICATIONS, ELABORATIONS AND NEW ELEMENTS."

"I AM BRINGING FIRM IDEAS," HAK SAID. "YOU CAN CALL THEM PROPOSALS."

HE ADDED, "THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE FOR AN AGREEMENT."

GLOOM THAT HAD PERVADED HIS PLANE EARLIER IN WEEK GAVE WAY TO MUTED OPTIMISM, ALTHOUGH U. S. OFFICIALS ADVISED NEWSMEN TO "PLAY IT DOWN MIDDLE" AND DESCRIBED HAK AS NEITHER "UPBEAT NOR DOWNBEAT."

THESE OFFICIALS SAID "BASIC FRAMEWORK" FOR SINAI SETTLEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED AND THAT AN AGREEMENT DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH "GIVE" EACH SIDE HAS.....

UPI, NO BYLINE, ASWAN: HAK BROUGHT TO EGYPT THURSDAY PERHAPS DECISIVE NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS TRYING TO KEEP ALIVE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SECOND STAGE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL...

"WE ARE STILL IN BUSINESS," AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID...

A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL ABOARD HAK'S PLANE SAID THERE IS STILL NO AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR ACCORD -- HOW FAR ISRAEL WILL WITHDRAW IN EXCHANGE FOR WHAT EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS.

HAK DROVE DIRECTLY TO SADAT'S REST HOUSE.. AND THE TWO MEN BEGAN MEETING HALF AN HOUR LATER.

AT AIRPORT HAK TOLD REPORTERS, "AFTER THAT WE CAN DECIDE WHERE WE STAND."

SENIOR OFFICIAL DESCRIBED ISRAELI PROPOSALS AS REFINEMENT AND MODIFICATION OF WHAT ISRAEL HAS PROPOSED BEFORE.

HE SAID HAK HAD NO FIXED SCHEDULE BEYOND HIS RETURN TO ISRAEL FRIDAY WITH SADAT'S RESPONSE. HE SAID TALKS HAD GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS THEY COULD GO WITHOUT REACHING A UNCLASSIFIED

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"BASIC FRAMEWORK".

HE SAID, HOWEVER, ISRAELI CABINET HAS MOVED BEYOND ITS LAST FORMAL OFFER OF A WITHDRAWAL THAT FALLS SHORT OF SINAI PASSES AND ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS. THERE WAS STILL A GAP WHICH MUST BE BRIDGED.... HE SAID HAK STILL HAS NOT PUT FORWARD AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO BRIDGE GAP.

OFFICIAL REAFFIRMED THAT HAK WILL REMAIN IN AREA UNTIL HE KNOWS ONE WAY OR OTHER WHETHER HE CAN BRING ABOUT AGREEMENT.

TELEVISION

1. ABC, HALFWAY THRU PROGRAM: REASONER: HAK FLEW FROM ISRAEL TO EGYPT TODAY WITH SOME NEW ISRAELI IDEAS FOR A SECOND STAGE TROOP WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI. KOPPEL REPORTS THAT ISRAEL SEES POSSIBILITY OF AN AGREEMENT ON FOLLOWING LINES: EGYPT WOULD PUBLICLY AGREE TO REFRAIN FROM ACTS OF WAR AGAINST ISRAEL, AND IN ADDITION, WOULD ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTS OF NON-BELLIGERENCE SUCH AS PERMITTING DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN CAIRO AND TEL AVIV, AND LIFTING ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AGAINST FIRMS DEALING WITH ISRAEL. IN RETURN, ISRAEL WOULD AGREE TO WITHDRAWAL FROM STRATEGIC PASSES AND OIL FIELDS IN SINAI OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO YEARS. (NO KOPPEL)

2. NBC, TOM BROKAW (TOWARD END OF PROGRAM): HAK BROUGHT SOME ISRAELI PROPOSALS TO EGYPT TODAY. HAK WAS SEVERAL HOURS BEHIND SCHEDULE ON HIS SHUTTLE. HE HAD WAITED IN

UJERUSALEM FOR ISRAELI CABINET TO CONCLUDE A TEN-HOUR  
MEETING. (NO VALERIANI)  
3. NO COVERAGE ON CBS. INGERSOLL

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